(b) to (d) Instructions have already been issued by Reserve Bank of India to all scheduled commercial banks that in the case of farmers affected by drought for 3 or more years in succession, they may defer recovery of the amounts falling due on account of interest in the current year (July 1987—June 1988) for a period of 2 years or till the next normal years if it occurs earlier. Further no penal interest should be charged in such cases and the interest on the dues postponed should also not be compounded. RBI has further instructed the banks to charge only concessional interest at 10 per cent per annum on short them loans upto Rs. 5000|- in the case of farmers who have suffered 3 or more consecutive droughts and whose loans have been converted|reschedule. These concessions are expected to provide adequate relief in case of farmers affected by drought. There is no proposal to exempt interest as such.

Indo Iran trade

48. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions have recently been held between Iran and India to boost trade;

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Discussions were held at Government and corporate levels with a delegation led by H.E. Mr. Behzad Nabavi, Minister of Heavy Industry Islamic Republic of Iran visited India from 18th to 25th December, 1987.

(b) and (c) Areas of economic technical and industrial cooperation were identified and a number of Memorandum of Understanding were signed between Indian and Iranian companies covering transfer of technology, supply of equipment in sectors such as castings and forgings, machine tools, automative components etc.

Clearance of irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh

49. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
PROF. C. LAKSHAMANNA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requested the Prime Minister on January 27, 1988 for immediate clearance of irrigation projects like the Telugu Ganga the Vamsadhara and the Sriram Sagar left bank canal; and

(b) if so, when the clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The projects were discussed. Their clearance can be considered after inter-State concurrence is obtained by Andhra Pradesh Government.

Lathi-charge on advocates in Delhi

50. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a lathi-charge on the advocates in Delhi recently, resulting in a strike by the advocates in Delhi High Court and subordinate Courts; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the erring police officials and to institute a judicial inquiry into the lathi-charge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to